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Letter, 1975 August 5, from Jester J. Hairston to Eva Jessye

Jester J. Hairston

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7 uls. Aug. 5, 1975

Hi, Darling:

What are you up to these days? and how are you? I am here in Macon, Ga. doing a small role in a baseball film. Saw a friend of yours here, who is in our film, Miss Mabel King. She is the owner of one of the Negro Teams. I'm an old-time pitcher, now down and out. I earn the few pennies I can by juggling 3 base balls, outside the baseball parks.

Learning to juggle those balls has been one of the hardest tricks I've ever encountered! And, in one scene, I even juggle them as I'm leading my team out to the field. I not only practice with them all day, when I'm not in a scene, but even in my sleep!

Marge is fine, thank God! And the longer we live together, the more I appreciate Marge, Miss Jessye. Not many women would have stayed at home, while their husbands jumped all over the world, doing his thing.

But Marge realizes that I could not
earn out living in S. A. only. I must
always go where I'm wanted and
appreciated. And that is not always
in S. A. I may have told you that
I am already booked at schools,
Churches and Colleges, all across
the Country; from Oct. through
next May.

One thing is in my favor; I am
not money crazy. I have not raised
my fee in 10 years. Little schools as
well as large ones can have me, at
my fee. I'd rather keep busy at the
thing I do best, than hold out for
a much larger fee and do very
few concerts.

Was your last venture away
from Mich. a success? God bless
you in all you do. I sent your
organization a little donation.
I leave here in 2 more weeks. Love,
Phiriston